

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A disposable shoe liner comprising:
a laminate structure shaped to approximate the contours of a foot,
said laminate structure comprising a first substrate containing a
thermoplastic polymer and a second substrate containing a thermoplastic
polymer, wherein the thermoplastic polymer of said first substrate is fused
together with the thermoplastic polymer of said second substrate to form
fused portions and unfused portions located between said fused portions,
said unfused portions defining pockets containing discrete regions of a
functional material that is capable of providing comfort to the foot of a
user.
2. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein said
functional material contains particles.
3. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein said
functional material has a hardness that is greater than the hardness of
said first substrate and said second substrate.
4. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein said
functional material contains a fragrance, an odor absorbent, a liquid
absorbent, a germicidal material, or mixtures thereof.
5. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein said
functional material contains an odor absorbent.
6. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 4, wherein said odor
absorbent includes activated carbon granules.
7. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein at least
one of said substrates contains a material selected from the group
consisting of nonwoven webs, films, and combinations thereof.
8. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein at least
one of said substrates contains an elastomeric component.
9. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein the
functional material contained within a first group of said pockets have a

packing density that is greater than the packing density of a functional material contained within a second group of said pockets.

10. A disposable shoe liner comprising:

a laminate structure shaped to approximate the contours of a foot,
said laminate structure comprising a first substrate and a second
substrate, said first substrate and said second substrates being selected
from the group consisting of nonwoven webs, films, and combinations
thereof, said first substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer and said
second substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer, wherein the
thermoplastic polymer of said first substrate is fused together with the
thermoplastic polymer of said second substrate to form fused portions and
unfused portions located between said fused portions, said unfused
portions defining pockets containing discrete regions of particles that are
capable of providing comfort to the foot of a user.

15. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 10, wherein said
particles contain a fragrance, an odor absorbent, a liquid absorbent, a
germicidal material, or mixtures thereof,

12. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 10, wherein said
particles contain an odor absorbent.

20. 13. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 12, wherein said
odor absorbent includes activated carbon granules.

14. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 10, wherein said
particles have a hardness that is greater than the hardness of said first
substrate and said second substrate.

25. 15. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 10, wherein the
particles contained within a first group of said pockets have a packing
density that is greater than the packing density of particles contained
within a second group of said pockets.

16. A method for forming a disposable shoe liner comprising:

30. providing a first substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer;

depositing in discrete regions onto said first substrate a functional material capable of providing comfort to the foot of a user;

5 placing a second substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer adjacent said first substrate such that said functional material is sandwiched between said first and said second substrates;

10 fusing the thermoplastic polymer of said first substrate with the thermoplastic polymer of said second substrate to form fused portions and unfused portions located between said fused portions, said unfused portions defining pockets containing said discrete regions of said functional material; and

shaping said substrates to approximate the contours of a foot.

17. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein said functional material contains particles.

15 18. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein said functional material is deposited onto said first substrate utilizing a deposition technique selected from the group consisting of vacuum screen, template, xerographic, electrostatic, print, and combinations thereof.

20 19. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein said fusing is accomplished by a technique selected from the group consisting of thermal bonding, ultrasonic bonding, adhesive bonding, and combinations thereof.

25 20. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein said functional material has a hardness that is greater than the hardness of said first substrate and said second substrate.

21. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein said functional material contains a fragrance, an odor absorbent, a liquid absorbent, a germicidal material, or mixtures thereof.

30 22. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein said functional material contains an odor absorbent.

23. A method as defined in claim 22, wherein said odor absorbent

includes activated carbon granules.

24. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein at least one of said substrates contains a material selected from the group consisting of nonwoven webs, films, and combinations thereof.

5 25. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein at least one of said substrates contains an elastomeric component.

10 26. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein the functional material contained within a first group of said pockets have a packing density that is greater than the packing density of the functional material contained within a second group of said pockets.

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